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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CASABL 00015 072024Z

61
ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 IO-11 AGR-05 EB-07

TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 071515Z JAN 76
FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3859
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS
SUBJ: USSR FISHERY SALES IN WEST AFRICA

1. GEORGE V EVERETT, PLANNING ADVISOR, CECAF PROJECT, FAO/UNDP IN DAKAR, SENEGAL REPORTED TO RFA THAT SOVIET FISHERY SALES IN WEST AFRICA ARE "BOOMING". EVERETT INDICATED SOVIETS ARE SELLING INCREASING AMOUNTS OF FROZEN FISH IN NIGERIA, TOGO, DAHOMEY, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE, CONGO (B), AND ZAIRE.

2. EVERETT REPORTED SOVIETS RECENTLY SOLD HORSE MACKEREL IN ZAIRE AT $300 PER TON TO SOCIETE GENERAL D'ALIMENTATION WHO SOLD PRODUCT ON RETAIL LEVEL AT $900/TON. EVERETT INDICATED SOVIETS PURPOSELY SELLING FISH AT LOW PRICES TO (1) ESTABLISH THEMSELVES FIRMLY IN AFRICAN MARKETS, AND (2) INCREASE SOVIET FOOTHOLD IN REGION. EVERETT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR WESTERN NATIONS TO COMPETE WITH THESE SALES DUE TO LOW PRICES.

3. EVERETT ALSO INDICATED THAT FAO CECAF PROJECT WILL CONCENTRATE ON OBTAINING SOVIET CATCH STATISTICS FOR REGION SINCE NEARLY HALF OF ALL FISH CATCH IS MADE BY SOVIET VESSELS. IF SOVIETS DO NO SUPPLY CATCH STATISTICS, THEN FAO PLANS SUBMIT THEIR OWN ESTIMATES AND ALLOW SOVIETS TO DISPROVE VALIDITY OF ESTIMATES.
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PAGE 02 CASABL 00015 072024Z

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